[26th September 1955

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Sir, liquor permits are granted on grounds of health. But permits are not given to poor people who are really deserving such permits. Permits are now granted only to persons belonging to higher income groups. Would the Government, therefore, consider the question of giving permits to lower income groups in really deserving cases or if necessary would the Government abolish once for all the condition of granting permits based on income so that all people, both rich and poor, are placed on the same level in the matter of getting permits?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : There is a danger of lower income groups spending on liquor more than they should or to sell their supplies in the black-market. That is why no permit is granted to those with a monthly income of Rs. 500 and less except in special circumstances.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : The Hon. Minister was kind enough to defend the officials. May I know the reason why the Government have not made it a condition that the officers who have liquor permits should not use liquor while attending office?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No rule is necessary. No officer is expected to come to office in a drunken state and if such a thing has happened we are prepared to take action. But there is no use in making such statements on the floor of the House unless the hon. Member is prepared to prove them.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : I should like to know whether drinking by the permit-holders, whether in office or outside office, is prohibited? I thought drunkenness was prohibited but not drinking.

* 2499 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of officers of the Southern Railway in the Golden Rock Workshops, Tiruchirappalli, who have been given permits for liquor; and

(*b*) whether the permits have been renewed for the current year?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) & (*b*) None of the officers referred to in the question has been granted a liquor permit.